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SAVVY TIMES

Welcome to the Journey! Issue 1, October 2003

The Official Parelli Savvy Club Magazine



***Education:
Choosing the
Right Horse***

**Horses That
FREAK Out!**

**The Long
Road to
Athens**

Put an end to those
"you can't catch me games"
horses play, and discover
how to convince your horse
that coming to you is the
best idea. The secret is not
to catch your horse but have
your horse catch you. It's all
about reverse psychology!

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SAVVY TIMES

The Official Parelli Savvy Club Magazine
Issue 1, October 2003

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Horse•Man•Ship.

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*They're skittish, can't stand still, hard to lead,
barging and shouldering, leaping in the air,
rearing, kicking out... Linda Parelli takes a hard
honest look at what it is and
what to do about it... Is there any hope?*



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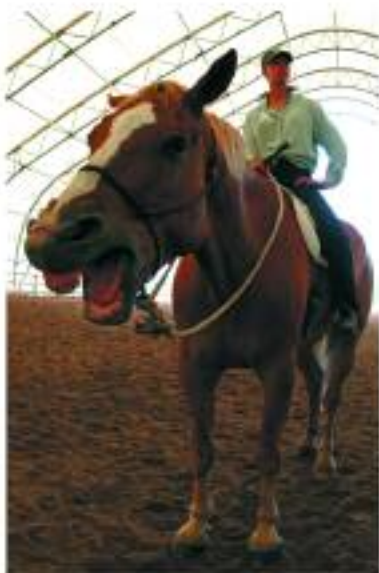
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BEHIND THE SCENES





*Welcome to
the Journey!*

It's been our dream for years to have a Parelli Savvy Club where Parelli students and families can receive special recognition and rewards and be linked to Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship in a very personal and extraordinary way. And it's finally happened!

Watch for new bonuses for Club members only — like a Club website with a virtual instructor and Parelli Collection discounts!

This is the first edition of the *Savvy Times Magazine*. We look forward to sharing with you an exclusive, inside look at Parelli. We are also eager to hear and share your stories and experiences with fellow club members. This is not only a personal journey, but the forming of a community. Welcome!



Choosing the Right Horse

By Linda Parelli



I've always been attracted to high-spirited, sensitive horses. Before learning *Parelli Natural Horse•Man•Ship*, I got into a lot of trouble with them. Sure, I could stay on most of the time, but it often got scary. My horses ran off with me, fell with me, reared, pranced and plunged... My love for riding horses kept me going until I was 30. Then it changed. Suddenly I had a different perspective on things, like danger and my mortality!

As a kid, it never crossed my mind that I could get hurt or killed, but suddenly it became something I thought of every time my horses got difficult to control. It still took a very challenging horse for me to open my eyes to another method, especially one from a cowboy! That's hard when you're an English rider. Thank goodness for this horse, or I may still not know any more than I did then... or I would have succumbed to what just about everyone else does... sell the horse, buy another one, send it to the trainer, use every new

gadget invented or give up riding altogether. There's only so much fear, frustration and failure a person can take before they give up!

Ten years later I'm writing this success story because I'm still attracted to those high-spirited, sensitive and highly strung magnificent beasts... but at least now I have enough savvy to handle them!

When my ex-racehorse and fellow graduate of *Level 4 Versatility*, Siren, turned 17 Pat said to me I should start thinking about bringing a new horse along. And then he said, "I'll be very interested to see what kind of horse you choose after everything you have learned so far." Yikes! What did he mean?!

He said, "So far you've had two ex-racehorses and both of them were off the planet. They were impulsive, defensive and unconfident horses, and you had a long road to hoe to change all that." Not to mention trying to learn the program as I went! "So what will you look for in your next horse?" Well that got me thinking. What were the attributes I'd be looking for?

MY NEXT HORSE...

1. It wouldn't be an ex-racehorse. I'd been down that road twice. While it was an enormous education and I had great results through the *Savvy System*, I decided I wanted a horse that had not been taught to be a right brain runaway. I'd like to start with a horse that had very little mental and emotional damage or baggage. The more baggage, the more potential is lost.

(As an aside here, not all racehorses are run-aholics so don't be against getting an ex-racehorse, just know what to look for so you get one that's not

going to take every ounce of mental and emotional energy in order to make it work. There are plenty of horses around, and you need to make the right selection.)

2. It would have to be a young horse. Young, but not too young! The more a horse has been through bad or unsavvy handling, the more its potential is diminished. For instance, some horses have been raised by people who were rough handlers, started under saddle forcibly, ridden with insensitivity, jerked around, been through forceful training, competed and blown up under the pressure. The more that has been done with a horse in the "normal" world of the disposable horse, the more "damage" has occurred.

It would be wonderful to start with a horse at birth, but with Siren at 17 I needed a horse that was pretty much ready to do something. So preferably I wanted the horse to be unriden or at worst have had very, very few rides.

3. Mare or gelding... didn't matter. I knew for sure I did not want a stallion. I love watching Pat play with his stallions, but I've seen some very dangerous stallion behavior and heard too many stories about people getting on the wrong side of a stallion. Yes, I am *Level 4 Versatility*, but I don't want to go there! Stallions need a leader with a lot of savvy because it's a stallion's job to be dominant. If you dominate him in a distasteful way or you are not paying attention when things aren't going right, a stallion can change in a nano-second from your darling horse to one that would attack you... Nothing personal. You were just in the way of his sex drive, and he didn't respect your leadership!



"When my ex-racehorse and fellow graduate of Level 4 Versatility, Siren, turned 17 Pat said to me I should start thinking about bringing a new horse along..."



When Linda met Remmer he was alert, curious, spooky yet self-confident, people-friendly and had a big play drive! Interested in everything that was going on, he wanted to meet and play with any horse near him.



Allure, star of the DVD: *Trouble Free Trailer Loading* is one of Linda's newest horses. He "is a four-year-old Trakehner that is higher on the talent factor" than Remmer.



Sirocco, Linda's three-year-old Hannoverian, makes friends with Pat. Linda was fortunate to be able to purchase him as a yearling. "The more a horse has been through bad or unsavvy handling, the more its potential is diminished."

CHOOSING THE RIGHT HORSE

4. **Breed.** Hmm... This narrowed things down. With my interest in dressage and jumping, I leaned towards Thoroughbreds and Warmbloods. Big horse, nice movement.

5. **Attitude.** I would be looking for a self-confident, positive, curious kind of horse who liked people and had a high play drive. Sounds like the perfect horse! It is, but you still have to be the perfect leader for that horse or that high play drive and self confidence will be the end of you!

love to develop a long term relationship with this horse." The horse being good looking and well conformed was only one part of it, the rest of the attraction would come from charisma, color, that look in the horse's eye.

9. **Sound.** This is when you want the vet check. First find the horse you want and then spend the money to have it checked out. Too many people make this the first step and then find out they're not that attracted to the horse once they try it out.

to know how to direct it positively!

I didn't know what kind of horse he was so I sidled up to his owner and asked what breed he was. "Dutch Warmblood and he's for sale," she said in the same breath! Turned out he was three-and-a-half. She'd raised him from four months of age, and now she felt he was way too much horse for her. To cut a short story shorter, he was mine at lunch time. She thought he'd be perfect for me, and she wanted out of that relationship. "His papers and blanket are in the truck. I'd rather not take him home after this!"

So here are Remmer's stats:

1. **Never raced.**
2. **Not too young!** Three-and-a-half, I could start with him right away.
3. **Gelding.** Great! Not a stallion!
4. **Warmblood, big horse.** At that age he was 16.1 hands high. He's now just about 17 hands at the age of 8.
5. **Attitude.** Punk! He was alert, curious, spooky yet self-confident as long as he was in familiar surroundings (which told me that wouldn't be hard to develop), positive attitude, people-friendly and a big play drive! He was interested in everything that was going on, wanted to meet and play with any horse near him and he was very exuberant. Not only had he shown that in the clinic arena, but when turned loose in the 100' round corral, he was quite spectacular!
6. **Impulsion.** He wanted to go, his energy would come up easily, but he didn't keep on going and going and going and going (which my Thoroughbreds would have done in the same situation). He'd blast around then stop and get interested. Then blast off again... And this was when his blood was up. Good sign, he could actually stop!
7. **Talent. Medium.** He had nice, athletic gaits, but he was not a flamboyant mover. That's okay, everything else measured up. He certainly had no problem getting in the air!
8. **Love at first sight.** No question. I loved his color (dark bay), his conformation,



REMMER AND I FIND EACH OTHER!

6. **Impulsion.** This is the part where go=whoa and whoa=go, which means the horse is willing to go forward and willing to stop. Again, sounds perfect! There are lots and lots of horses like that. On our impulsion scale (featured in *Level 2 Harmony*) we call this a 5. A 1 is a horse that doesn't have any go, and a 10 is one that doesn't have any whoa! My ex-racehorses were an 8 and a 9 so *Impulsion Programs (Level 2 Harmony)* became a critical part of our development, or should I say, mutual survival!

7. **Talent.** I'd be looking for an athletic horse with lovely, springy movement. This would be important both for jumping and dressage movements like passage, piaffe, extended trot, etc.

8. **Love at first sight.** The chemistry would have to be there. I'd need to see this horse and think, "Oooh, yum! I'd

So that's how I chose Remmer, my Dutch Warmblood. His owner came to do a clinic at our place in Colorado. Her horse, Remmer, was out of control. The Instructor had to keep taking him over because he couldn't keep all his feet

*The chemistry would have to be there.
I'd need to see this horse and think,
"Oooh, yum! I'd love to develop a long
term relationship with this horse."*

on the ground. It was a combination of over-excitement, nervousness and misbehavior. As I watched him leaping into the air, rearing and jumping up and down on the spot I was instantly attracted! No problem to be attracted to this kind of energy after graduating *Level 3 Refinement*. At least now I have the savvy



“He’d blast around then stop and get interested. Then blast off again...”

his big eye, his charisma. He had that “look at me” presence.

9. **Sound.** Yes. Phew!

When I said to Pat I really like this horse, Pat said, “Good. You’ve made the right choice.” Phew again!

Since then, I’ve bought two new horses. One is a four-year-old Trakehner that is higher on the talent factor, Allure. The other is a three-year-old Hanoverian, Sirocco, who not only is a talented mover, but he was a yearling when I bought him. I love buying horses with savvy!

HOW TO ASSESS THE EMOTIONS AND IMPULSION OF A HORSE

Play the *Seven Games*. Even just the first three games will tell you all you need to know:

Friendly Game: A horse that is terrified of the *Friendly Game* (throwing rope/Carrot Stick and Savvy String over his back) and takes a long time to settle is probably over sensitive and very highly strung. This often goes hand in hoof with impulsiveness. Be careful! If this horse measures up on every other point you may still want to go ahead and buy him. Do not buy him if you are less than a *Level 2 Harmony* graduate in our program, or you are in for an emotional roller coaster ride... The more savvy you have, the less this kind of horse will be frustrating for you and the faster you’ll start having good results. *Level 3 Refinement* would be ideal if the horse is really challenging.

Look for how quickly the horse adapts to the *Friendly Game* and realizes it’s not threatening. A horse that is totally unfazed by the *Friendly Game* will probably rank lower on the rest of the games where more respect is required.

Porcupine Game: A horse that pushes on you or panics when you apply physical pressure to *Zone 1* is more likely to push on the bit and either ignore you or panic when you use the reins. Look for how quickly this horse learns to yield from the pressure. This will also help you assess his “teachability.”

Driving Game: A horse that freaks out when you “constructively” spook it is going to tell you about its degree of difficulty (as per *Friendly Game*). And one that acts like you’re not even there is going to take some “sensitizing.” Both can be done. It’s just a matter of assessing how extreme they are. If you had a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means totally insensitive and dull and 10 means totally oversensitive and freaked out, look for something in the middle to high end if you want a performance horse and on the low end if you want a horse for a child or inexperienced horse person. Something right in the middle would be ideal for most people learning the *Parelli Savvy System*.

These first three *Games* will give you an idea of his sensitivity, self-confidence, opinion of people (scared or pushy), emotional stability (if he gets bothered at all and how long it takes to calm down) and teachability (an emotional horse has more trouble learning). Then you need to match all this up with your ability! The lower your ability (let’s be really objective now!) the easier you’ll want the horse to be.

TALENT

If I were looking for the world champion, super horse, I would put talent way up the front of the scale, say at 7 and higher. You’d want sensitivity, athleticism as well as self confidence, etc. etc. Depending on what sport you



Friendly Game:

A horse that is terrified of the Friendly Game (throwing rope over back/Carrot Stick and String) and takes a long time to settle is probably over sensitive and very highly strung. Be careful!



Porcupine Game:

A horse that pushes on you or panics when you apply physical pressure to Zone 1 is more likely to push on the bit and either ignore you or panic when you use the reins.



Driving Game:

Look for how quickly this horse learns to yield. This will also help you assess his “teachability.”

CHOOSING THE RIGHT HORSE

wanted to excel in, you'd choose the appropriate breed... one that could get out of the ground (jumping, dressage), one that could get into the ground (slide stops and spins for reining and cutting), one that could really cover ground and had a lot of stamina (endurance)... get the picture? This is also the kind of horse that's usually pretty sensitive and intelligent and does not do well with our clumsiness, lack of savvy or mistakes! You're looking for a reasonably hot blooded horse here.

You should see Pat's notes on the *Seven Talents of Horses* in the *Level 3 Refinement Theory Book*, where not only does he discuss attributes, but he also points out certain conformations and breeds that have been genetically shaped over many years to have the instincts and aptitude for certain sports or applications.

If I were looking for a horse for therapeutic riding or for a child, his talent/disposition would have to rank very highly for that purpose. In this case

the talent would be: naturally unspooky, bombproof, okie dokie, I don't care if you make mistakes or get a bit clumsy kind of horse. This horse would have to have a high tolerance level and be a little or a lot on the insensitive side. You're

***So! You have the horse you have now.
How does it measure up on this scale?***

looking for a cold horse as opposed to a hot horse. One who has a lot of trouble getting his energy up and if it ever comes up it doesn't last long! This is a great confidence builder.

If I were looking for a pal, a horse to go trail riding with, have fun with and help me in my horsemanship journey, I'd be looking for a talent level of 4 to 6. Very important would also be his attitude... positive, likes people, reasonably self-confident, not too high a play drive. If you're looking for a pretty easy going horse, a high play drive could be much too challenging for you! This is the kind

of horse that gets bored easily and starts looking for fun which could appear to be mischief to you. It becomes trying if you don't know how to direct all that energy. This is a horse that is not too hot, not too cold but just right!

So! You have the horse you have now. How does it measure up on this scale? The more extreme they are in certain areas, the more savvy you need. This horse will still be a great teacher for you, so don't think you have to sell your pal. That's not the message here. It's about becoming a good pick so the next time you buy a horse you'll make a savvy selection and get the horse that fits your skill level and your purpose or dream.

In the meantime, learn all you can from the horse you have now. He'll teach you so much and be something so valuable to you at this time of your growth as a horseman... he'll be your teacher. Thank goodness we all have Pat as our guide! 🐾



TOURNAMENTS



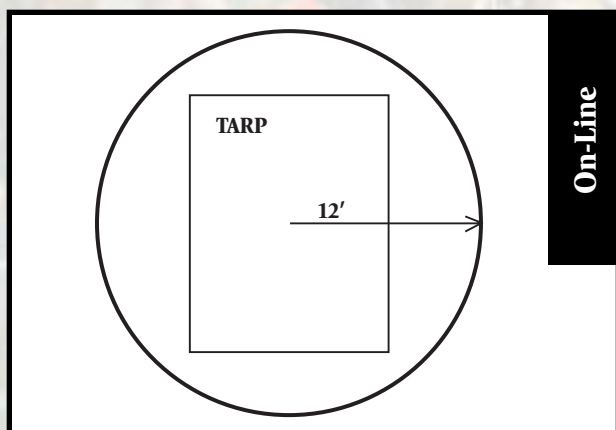
Parelli is proud to announce the Parelli Tournaments. Anyone who has attended the Horseman's Savvy Conference or one of our Tour stops or seen some of the new DVD releases has probably caught a glimpse of this friendly competition.

Currently Parelli UK and Australia are testing the format. The first *National Parelli Games* will be held in Melbourne, Australia in November 2003. The competition is exclusive to the UK and

Australian Savvy Club members and tests their knowledge of the *Seven Games* in all *Four Savvys*.

Here's the great part... The US is gearing up for their own Tournaments. It also will be exclusive to Savvy Club members. The goal is to have a US competition where the winners would go on to compete internationally!

So, here's a sneak peek at some of the tasks required... start practicing!



On-Line

All On-Line tasks are to be completed with breakaway ties attached through the halter loop and then to the snap of the line.

ON-LINE TARP

Set-up: Tarp, 12' Lead or Measuring Tape & Chalk
(Mark a 24' diameter circle and place a tarp inside.)

Equipment: 12' Line, Horseman's Halter, Carrot Stick, Savvy String & Breakaway Ties

Goal: Horse has to stay inside the circle either on or under the tarp for at least 7 seconds while the human stays outside of the circle.

10 Points - Horse stands with all 4 feet on the tarp for 7 seconds

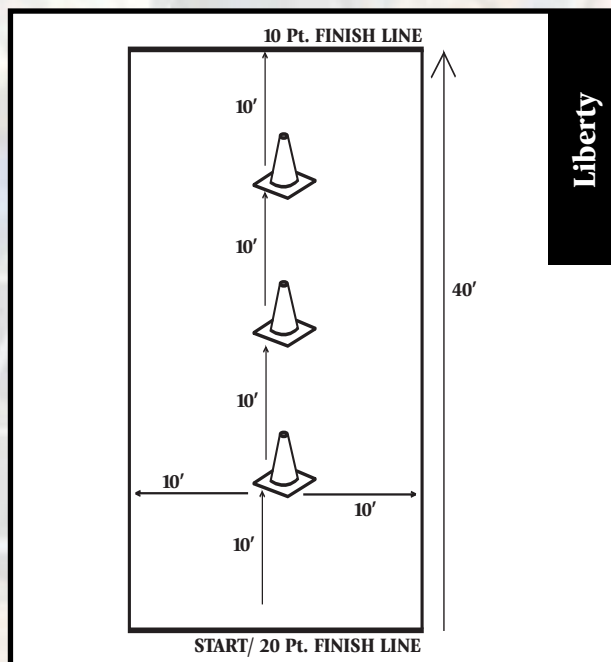
- Send horse into the circle.
- Steward counts 7 seconds

20 Points - Horse stands under tarp for 7 seconds

- Send horse into the circle.
- Place tarp on horse
- Steward counts 7 seconds

No points if:

- the horse steps outside of circle
- position is not maintained for 7 seconds
- trying for 20 points and Zones 2,3 & 4 are not covered by the tarp
- the human steps inside the circle
- the breakaway tie breaks



Liberty

PORCUPINE BACKWARDS THROUGH SLALOM

Set-up: 3 Cones, Measuring Tape & Chalk
(Place all cones in a straight line 10' apart. Mark the start line perpendicular to the first cone 10' away. Draw a box around all of the cones with the sides parallel to the cones 10' away and each perpendicular end 10' away.)

Equipment: None

Goal: Using the Porcupine Game and pushing on your horse's nose or chest, back across the start line and continue to weave backwards through the cones.

10 Points - Slalom backwards across the finish line.

20 Points - Slalom backwards across the finish line, circle the horse around the end cone and slalom backwards back across the start line.

No points if:

- you or your horse does not stay inside the box during the slalom
- it's not the correct pattern
- a cone is knocked over
- horse does not begin backing up over the start line

INTERNATIONAL SAVVY CENTERS

COLORADO 2004

Level 1 Partnership with Parelli Instructors
May 9-14 • Jun 13-18 • Jul 25-30 • Aug 15-20

Advanced Level 1 Partnership with Parelli Instructors
May 16-21 • Jun 20-25 • Aug 22-27

Level 1/2 with Parelli Instructors
Jun 27-Jul 2 • Jul 25-30

Level 2 Harmony with Parelli Instructors
May 23-28 • Jul 4-9 • Aug 15-20

Advanced Level 2 Harmony with Linda Parelli • Jul 11-23
with Parelli Instructors
May 30-Jun 4 • Aug 22-27

Level 2/3 with Parelli Instructors
Jun 6-18 • Jul 4-9 • Sep 19-24

Level 3 Refinement with Pat Parelli • Jul 11-23
with Linda Parelli • Aug 1-13

Advanced Level 3 Refinement with Pat Parelli • Aug 1-13

Level 4 Competition with Pat Parelli • Aug 30-Sep 7

Eventing with the O'Connors • Jun 20-25

Reining with Craig Johnson • Jun 27-Jul 2

Riding with Fluidity with Linda Parelli • May 30-Jun 11

FLORIDA 2003-2004

Level 1 Partnership with Parelli Instructors
2003: Nov 9-14 • Dec 7-12
2004: Jan 18-23 • Mar 7-12 • Oct 10-15

Advanced Level 1 Partnership with Parelli Instructors
2003: Nov 16-21 • Dec 14-19
2004: Jan 25-30 • Mar 14-19 • Oct 17-22
Nov 28-Dec 3

Level 1/2 with Parelli Instructors
2004: Oct 24-29

Level 2 Harmony with Parelli Instructors
2003: Nov 30-Dec 5
2004: Feb 15-20 • Mar 21-26 • Oct 31-Nov 5
Dec 5-10

Advanced Level 2 Harmony with Parelli Instructors
2003: Nov 2-7
2004: Mar 28-Apr 2 • Nov 7-12 • Dec 12-17

Level 2/3 with Parelli Instructors
2004: Feb 22-27 • Nov 14-20

Level 3 Refinement with Linda Parelli • 2004: Feb 1-13
with Parelli Instructors • 2004: Feb 29-Mar 5

"What a vacation for us to get out of our usual hustle & bustle & be around horses in this beautiful setting. And be learning a way of training that treats horses with respect & dignity."

"Realizing the importance of 'play.' I had lost this along the way of life and am finding it again."



"I came here wanting to sell my horse. I'm leaving with a different relationship with my horse. Knowing all the little details that I learned from the instructor and other students helped me better understand why my horse and I always battled. I look differently at my horse and especially at how I was always a predator to my horse."

"My daughter wants to come back for the Level 2 next summer and I (and perhaps my husband) want to do Level 1. I think this is a great way to spend quality time together!"



"I have learned to enjoy riding, I've learned to relax and to let my frustrations go away."



"THE FOOD WAS AWESOME AND HEALTHY!"



"Great facility - round pens, Big Top, jumps etc..."

"I've always dreamed of dancing with horses (a la Spanish Riding School). Now I have a road map to get there. It may just change the course of the second half of my life! What a gift to the world and to the horse!!"

Remember: Savvy Club Members receive 35% OFF ISC courses! Even off EarlyBird!

Dear Dean of the ISC,

"First I want to thank you for everything. Your honesty and support in the midst of everything you have to do is so generous. I appreciate your time and attention.

"My Instructor mentioned you would like some feedback on the ten-week courses. Here you go.

"You asked us to trust the system — that you knew how to get each and every one of us to our goals... and it is miraculous how you do so... This is my second ten-week course. In both instances there has been a diverse level of students in the same group. From the very new, like myself, to students who have been invited to study with Pat. In each course, the instructors have carefully monitored and guided us through to our respective levels. I believe this is extraordinary. To have a group of students, with different objectives, reaching them.

"I love the curriculum. I love the diverse classes and then how we are given time to play with what we are taught. I love that we are given project horses to layer our education. And that Pat has taken time himself to drop in and teach us. That we are able to benefit from the higher education all around us every day. It is a wonderful environment with so much available at all times. It is a pity we have to sleep! And if there is any free time, that we can fill it by watching any other class that is going on. How generous.

"I have seen on both occasions students excelling. I have seen horses changing and relaxing. I have seen people grow. It is remarkable that people come to this school and their lives change so dramatically for the best.

"I love the way the program evolves so quickly. That the instructors are current and challenged in their educations. That the standards are so high. And this is passed on to the students.

"I am extremely proud to be accepted into your school. I am proud to be a Parelli student.

"My education is in your hands. It is a great feeling of freedom to know that you will guide me through my levels. That I can achieve whatever I want with your support. It is unique to find a school that is so alive and personal.

"As Pat says, it takes guts to change patterns, but the rewards are so worth it. I have changed mine to be part of yours. Thank you again for the opportunity." — L.D.

Success with Horses

Meet Pat &
Linda in Person!



FREE Admission for Savvy Club Members!

Just show your passport at the door.

The tour includes a spectrum of talent that will dazzle you as Pat takes three green horses owned by local people through his famous *Seven Games*, and Linda demonstrates *Riding with Fluidity* and *Finesse*. The seminar also includes putting the *Seven Games* to a purpose (like obstacles and trailer loading), and how these *Games* apply to riding skills. A knock-your-socks-off advanced bridle-less riding demonstration will have you on the edge of your chair. And that's the schedule just for day one!

The second day is another rousing crowd-pleaser, with fun demonstrations of "*Liberty is more than the round corral*," a *Game* where the horse catches the human, and starting a horse at *Liberty*.

Pat and Linda Parelli and their magnificent steeds will also show the secrets of simple and flying lead changes and the art of natural collection — both on the ground and under saddle.

Anyone who has even glimpsed Pat and Linda at an event knows that *Parelli* seminars are fast-paced, fun, and loaded with surprises, humor, and savvy secrets. This tour is packed with innovative information and valuable lessons that horsemen of all skill levels can teach their horses — from the beginner to the Olympic contender. "This isn't about what I can do with horses," says Pat Parelli, "it's about what I can teach you to do with horses."

Upper Marlboro, MARYLAND Oct 14-15
Louisville, KENTUCKY Oct 22-23 • Madison, WISCONSIN Oct 28-29
Battle Creek, MICHIGAN Nov 1-2 • Ocala, FLORIDA Nov 8-9
Winston-Salem, NORTH CAROLINA Nov 15-16

In the article, Linda talks about a myriad of topics, including helmets, meeting Pat, and the fear many riders face. "Most riders are at least a little bit afraid," Linda observes. "We start them on the ground so they can develop the skills and the relationship with their horse that they'll need to be successful. Then they can easily transfer those skills to riding. I myself was fearless as a child, but Regalo taught me about fear. The Seven Games are a safe, effective way to calm an excitable horse while maintaining your own safety and confidence." It's a great story, well written by Jennifer Forsberg-Meyer with informative sidebars and magnificent photographs.

Kathy Swan's Journey

In the November issue of *Western Horseman Magazine*, writer extraordinaire, Kathy Swan, shares her journey at the Horsemanship Experience course at the *International Savvy Center* in Colorado. Kathy and Pat co-authored Pat's book, *Natural Horsemanship*. Kathy was elated about what she learned at the course. "I took my reining horse, who had won a number of championships. But I just wanted to learn how to lead him so he didn't run over the top of me every time I put the halter on!" It's a fun story, with lots of insight about how *Parelli* is a savvy way to develop your horsemanship — regardless of your level of expertise.

Thoroughbred Times is a leading publication for the race horse industry. "I was really happy that *Parelli* got a story in this magazine," says Pat. "because we can



really make a difference for race horses and I think the industry is ready." The story, ably written by Cynthia McFarland, has a number of quotes about Pat and *Parelli* from racing greats like Bobby Frankel, Jim Hill and Bob Duncan.

Seems as though the racing industry truly is glancing our way. Pat and *Parelli* are also featured in Texas Thoroughbred Magazine. Pat is developing a program for the first 1,000 days of a race horse's life — and notable Thoroughbred farms like Three Chimneys and Lane's End are taking notice. Stay tuned...

It's official! Pat will be Olympic Pentathlete Tracy Mattes' equestrian coach at the 2004 Games in Greece. For the equestrian portion of her five-part competition, Tracy will draw a horse that she's never met before. She then has 20 minutes to be with that horse before enter-



ing the show jumping arena, where she faces 12 four-foot jumps! But she now has a secret advantage — Pat Parelli. Pat will be allowed to be with Tracy and her horse during those 20 minutes — and we've all witnessed what Pat can do in 20 minutes with a horse. It's a sure bet that the television cameras will pivot when they see the mustache, Carrot Stick and cowboy hat, instead of focusing on all the other coaches in jodhpurs and English riding boots...

Interested in attending the 2004 Olympics in Greece with Pat and Linda and watching our *Parelli Powered Olympians* David O'Connor (Three-day Eventing), Karen O'Connor (Three-day Eventing) and Tracy Mattes (Pentathlon)? E-mail Kate Riordan at irishkate@prodigy.net for information. We're putting together a package for a small group to rendezvous there. We'll hopefully also have the chance to watch reining champion and Parelli enthusiast Craig Johnson demonstrate his sport there, too.



Pat and Linda Parelli were delighted when several people decided to become Parelli Savvy Club Lifetime Members during the Conference (a few of them shown here). Those Lifetime Members include Chris Hudson and Frances Robinson; Larry, Donna, Kevin and Ryan Geer; Carolen, Alex, Lonnie and Eleesha Smiley; and Paula Knickerbocker.



There's still time to register to win "Horsecity," a wonderful Quarter Horse that Pat has been developing and taking on

tour. Horsecity is owned by horsecity.com, a fabulous website that offers all sorts of information and education. And if you win the horse, you also win three weeks of Parelli courses! What a great package! Visit horsecity.com and put your name in the contest — you never know, you could be the winner!

Cloud's Legacy:

The Wild Stallion Returns

"Cloud: Wild Stallion of the Rockies" was the first edition filmed by Ginger Kathrens, Emmy award-winning producer. Ginger has written an article that we will feature in our next *Savvy Times* about what she's learned from Pat Parelli and how she's applied it to her relationship with her wild horse, Trace. "The Legacy" premieres on **Sunday, November 23rd** on PBS's *Nature*. Check your local listings for

exact times. To learn more about cloud visit www.taurusproductions.net and wild horses at www.savewildhorses.org

Parelli Awards

Parelli provides the..."INSPIRATION." You provide the..."PERSPIRATION." Let *Parelli Awards by Ginny Sue* provide your personalized... "PRESENTATION."

Parelli Students who officially assess receive a pin, certificate and savvy string. Now there's a great way to display your achievement, *Parelli Awards by Ginny Sue*! Ginny Sue is a very talented framer who

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a lock of your horse's hair. The possibilities are endless! For your personalized details and to place an order, contact GinnySue at: (269)781-2564 or awards@parelli.com.

Keepin' It Natural

'A Photographic Journey with Linda and Pat Parelli Vol. 1' This book ushers you through the private lives of Pat and Linda Parelli with exquisite photos of Linda's childhood horses, Pat's rodeo days and his revered mentors, to intimate portraits of their wedding day and the life beyond.



Learning from the Greats...

What would it feel like to ride alongside an Olympic Gold Medalist? Imagine yourself jumping a course, with Three-day Eventing star David O'Connor giving you a lesson! Couple that with Pat and Linda Parelli teaching you and your horse how to become better and more confident athletes.

Serious lessons? Sure. But the fun is unending, too, as the O'Connors and Parellis embrace laughter as part of the learning process. No matter what your level in Three-day Eventing, you're bound to experience a journey that will exceed

all others! The O'Connor Eventing Course runs June 20-25 at the Parelli ISC in Colorado.

If sliding, spinning, figure-eights, and flying lead changes are your passion, then heaven on earth can be found in the Craig Johnson/Pat Parelli course at the Colorado ISC June 27-July 2.

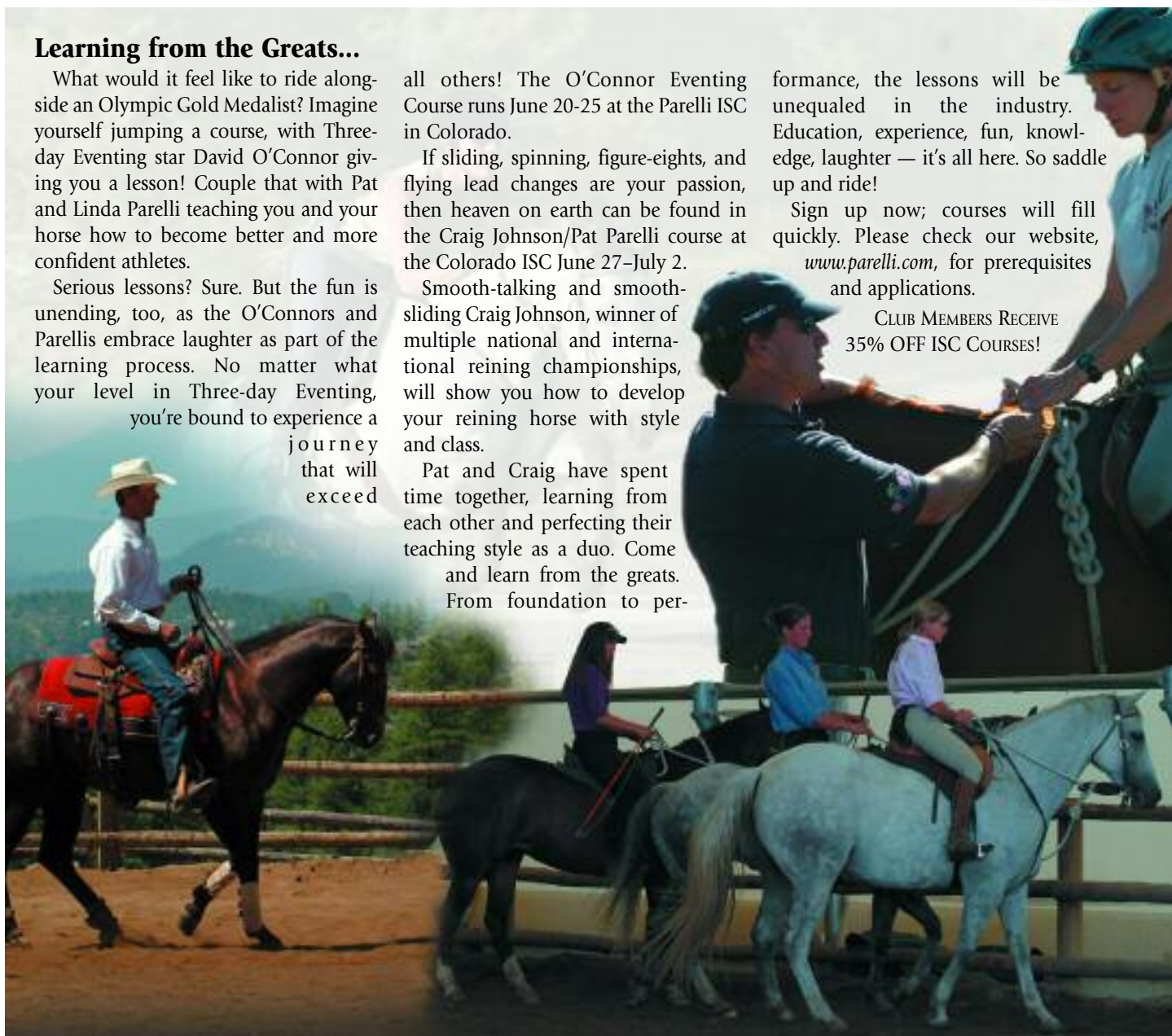
Smooth-talking and smooth-sliding Craig Johnson, winner of multiple national and international reining championships, will show you how to develop your reining horse with style and class.

Pat and Craig have spent time together, learning from each other and perfecting their teaching style as a duo. Come and learn from the greats. From foundation to per-

formance, the lessons will be unequaled in the industry. Education, experience, fun, knowledge, laughter — it's all here. So saddle up and ride!

Sign up now; courses will fill quickly. Please check our website, www.parelli.com, for prerequisites and applications.

CLUB MEMBERS RECEIVE
35% OFF ISC COURSES!





Horses That **FREAK** Out!

BY LINDA PARELLI

You've seen them, maybe you own one. They are uncontrollable, not all the time but often enough to cause you concern... They're skittish, can't stand still, hard to lead, barging and shouldering, leaping in the air, rearing, kicking out. They act like you don't even exist. And if you ever got up enough nerve to ride it turns out almost suicidal. Fighting the bridle, leaping, plunging, trying to run off, and rearing when you hold them back. But you hold them back for all you're worth because you know if they get the jump on you, they're off at full speed, blind with crazy and you're on top pulling on the reins with all your might... and it's as though they can't feel a thing. It's terrifying. I've been there.

This may seem very extreme to those of you who've never had this experience, but those who have know exactly what I'm talking about. I thought I was pretty confident with horses... until I met this horse. That was when I knew I didn't know enough, but I didn't find anyone who could help me make a real change with the horse until I met Pat Parelli. And even then, I really didn't realize how much of the problem was me.

WHY HORSES GO CRAZY AROUND PEOPLE

Most of these horses are just fine when with other horses... but the moment the human comes into the picture is when the "crazy" side comes out. These horses aren't crazy, they don't have a mental condition. They just are terrified of people and can't tolerate any mistakes or attitudes of force. These horses take a lot of understanding. Even though we think we have a domestic horse, inside every horse (even a gentle horse) is the wild primal horse.

Over millions of years horses have adapted to their environment yet kept their instincts... Horses are still herd animals, perceptive to danger and changes. After 6,000 years of riding and genetic development in breeding horses, we have managed to develop some strains that are less sensitive (drafts) and some that are super sensitive (Arabians, Thoroughbreds) and everything in between. Mostly, it's those that are more toward the hot blood that people have trouble with. (The equine at the other end of the spectrum: the smart, less sensitive guy who's more inclined to be lazy, the mule, the Warmblood... that's another article!)

The more sensitive and highly-strung the horse, the more difficult they are for people who don't know enough. Take me for example. I thought I could handle "spirited" horses! It took an ex-racehorse that really scared me on several occasions to make me realize that I was not as confident as I thought and that I didn't have what it took to deal with it. It never occurred to me that this could change. I thought that high-spirited horses would always be hard to control.

WHY ARE YOU PART OF THE PROBLEM?

Because you are not part of the solution. If your horse keeps acting like this around you, it's because you are not actively and soon-ly solving it! Ouch.

It's much easier to blame the horse! He's screwy. She's a nutcase, she has hormonal problems, he was abused. It doesn't matter how the horse got like this, it's just a hypersensitive horse. They cannot be expected to behave quietly and perfectly no matter what you do, no matter how clumsy, insensitive or uneducated/unsavvy you are. Once I accepted I was part of the problem, that's when things changed.

Horses are capable of making phenomenal changes in a very short time. If only people could do that! We people tend to never want to change, or we wait until we've had so many bad experiences, almost died, got frustrated and devastated beyond belief... and even then some of us stick to what we've always done! It took a horse like my Thoroughbred, Regalo, to make me look beyond the English riding world, to actually go to Pat Parelli for advice. But I had to have my back to the wall. The only way out was to sell the horse (to a man, or to the dog food people).

FEEL LIKE GIVING UP?

Oh yeah. Often, because frustration and failure surfaces a little too often for comfort. BUT I DIDN'T. Because I believed that it would work out in the end and I was prepared to do what it took. That's the difference between failure and success with a horse like this. If you have a horse like this it's an invitation to learn more and get better QUICK!

Why? Because this horse won't give you much time to learn, he won't tolerate your mistakes. That's why it's such a major decision to decide if you are willing enough to learn. If you are not prepared to go out of your way to learn full speed from the *Savvy System*, if you don't think you'll be able to get through the emotional swings of elation and frustration, don't go there. Quit now.

But if you don't quit, if you do decide to give it your all no matter what, the one thing that you'll end up appreciating more than anything is how much your horse is willing to FORGIVE. As Pat has so often said... "Horses forgive but they never forget. Humans forget but they hardly ever forgive."

This horse is really going to teach you how to let go of your own ego and really learn the meaning of what it takes to gain "rapport." Essentially, you stop making them wrong for being different from you. (By the way, this doesn't only apply to horses!)

I did whatever it took. But that's me and I'm not saying it should be you. You might not be prepared to stretch yourself like I did. The important thing is you know who you are and do what is right under the circumstances. The worst thing you can do is pretend. In the end, the truth will prevail. Your horse will make sure of that!

If you can react the moment something starts to happen, you'll be more effective



WHY RIDING IS OFTEN WORSE THAN ON THE GROUND

Mostly it's because when we are on the horse, they can feel everything... every time we tense up, lose our balance, are late on our timing, etc. It upsets the horse much more when he can feel all this along with his reaction...

When our feet are on the ground, loss of control doesn't seem to feel nearly as scary. For this reason it's easier to get on with these horses on the ground as you start to learn the *Parelli System*, and the better the relationship gets the less reactive they are when you start riding.

BACK TO SQUARE ONE!

You're going to have high highs and low lows because every now and then, just when things were going fantastic, you'll have a set back. While it feels like you're back to square one, you're not. Don't worry. Play the *Friendly Game* or get your horse left brain again and move on or start fresh the next day.

Accept the challenge and keep learning at full speed. Don't let yourself feel defeated, just because it got a little tough. It doesn't mean you aren't capable of getting past it. If you expect some difficult times it will help you manage it emotionally much better than if you think every day is going to be wine and roses! Hang in there, it's just a temporary thing.

WHAT DOES

"LESS SOONER" REALLY MEAN?

Less sooner really means doing more about it sooner! Most people are too slow for the horse. By the time the horse has done something you're in correction mode. Now you're going to have to do ten

times as much because you're late. If you can react the moment something starts to happen, you'll be more effective. Don't be late, don't be early, be right on time.

You'll get better and better at this as you progress. Basically, your horse will start to experience consequences every time it goes right brain (not punishment, but a job, a strong Yo-Yo, etc.) and find out that when he's left brain everything is safe, comfortable and wonderful. It won't take too long before the right brain times get shorter and shorter and they go from right to left brain more and more quickly.

WHAT TO DO?!

1. Commit to being on a steep learning curve. Get *Levels 1* and *2* minimum! Even better, get all three *Levels* and be prepared to watch all the videos, listen to all the audio tapes and read all the theory - equine psychology booklets.

2. Follow the program! This may seem redundant to say, but believe it or not, the hardest thing for most people is to start at Lesson 1 and follow it systematically from 1 to the end! This, however, is the secret to success.

3. The only thing you will not find in *Level 1* is the concept of "Match the Energy." This horse is a quick thinker, a quick reactor. You have to be one step ahead, if nothing else to be on time.

Horses think very quickly, some more quickly than others. And they actually react quicker than this. Once you observe the physical action of the horse and then do what you think needs to be done, YOU ARE TOO LATE!

When you watch Pat with a difficult horse you'll soon see that he's on to the horse's thoughts and intentions. He's done something about it well before the horse did something! This is why he's so effective. We, on the other hand, are reacting on our horse's physical reaction and behavior.

4. Be as quick as the horse. When a horse goes right brain, it's not only quick it's very powerful. Most of us get soft or we try to calm the horse down... easy, easy, don't be afraid. WRONG, WRONG, WRONG! When a horse is afraid, his most dominant thought is SAVE ME! Even if it means killing you and him in the process!

In getting a horse to go from right brain (instinctive, petrified, self preservation) to left brain (calm, trusting, thinking) you have to act like a leader. This means being

as firm as necessary under the circumstances in order to get your horse to think that nothing else exists except you.

Sometimes that takes a fair bit of energy and confidence. What this means is that you'd better have your act together in terms of the *Seven Games*... especially *Games 4* (backwards part of the Yo-Yo) and *6* (*Sideways*) because when horses are going backwards and sideways it's very hard for them to stay right brain for very long. You'd better know how to play these games so you can do them with great intensity. The kind of intensity that matches your horse's right brained-ness!

"Tasks" are what help a horse (and a human for that matter) to focus on something. So the worst thing you can do is let your horse run in circles. The best thing you can do is give him something to do and not let him goof off: back up or go sideways for, oh, a mile or two! Straddle a pole or log, put his front feet on something, etc. etc. The point is, give him something to do that causes him to think and you to have a focus on achieving. The worst thing that can happen for a horse like this is for you TO NOT HAVE A PLAN.

If you can, get through *Level 1* and at least halfway through *Level 2* in your savvy before taking on this horse. If you don't have that option, stay on the ground (don't get on) and develop your horse through *Level 2* or *3*. As your relationship and skills build, eventually you'll feel like getting on, at which point start at *Level 1*. These horses need you to be a strong and confident leader and you have to learn how to be just that. 🐾

The best thing you can do is give him something to do and not let him goof off





My name is Aurora, and I'm five years old. I live in Emmett, Idaho. I've been with horses my whole life, and I plan to be with them forever. I love the way I feel after I've spent some time with a horse.

My Grandma Mundell bought my horse, Magic, as a yearling and now he's nine. As far back as I can remember, I've watched my mom play with horses using the *Parelli* system. I've gotten to watch very scared and abused horses



turn completely around and become the horse they were always meant to be.

I've always followed my mom out to the barn. Even before it was my choice, she used to carry me out in the car seat

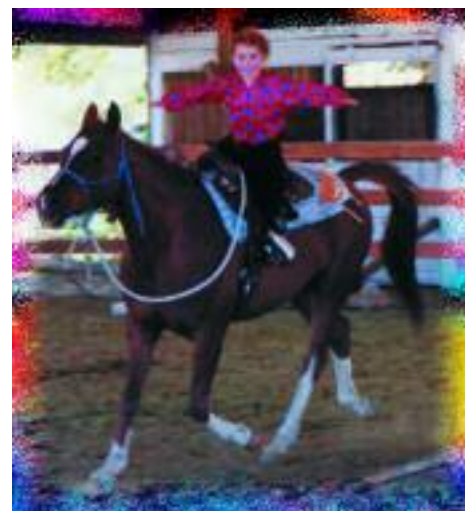
and set me outside the pen so I could be with her while she practiced with a horse and practiced her Levels. Soon I could walk, and I would stand outside and lean on the boards of the corral, waiting for her to finish so I could have my turn. She would lead me around and show me the games to play with the horse on the ground. It was fun to have a giant animal follow me and do all the things I asked! After my mom was sure I had played the games until I had won



them, she would set me on the horse. Slowly, with time and teaching, I learned how to turn, stop, and back up my horse.

When I was three years old I got to ride and play all the games by myself for the first time. My first horse was Khristah, a very quiet, gentle mare who is a great kid's horse. She would never do more than I was ready for. Then

my mom told me my skills were good enough that I could graduate to a horse that could challenge me a little more. She had almost completed her *Level 3 Refinement* with Magic. I rode with



Parelli's bareback pad for 6 months and got my balance, and when my little brother, Rhyan, turned three last year, he got Khristah as his own.

This spring my little brother tried cantering on Khristah and he did so well I decided to try it, too. I loved it! I canter a lot now, so I'll soon be a good enough rider to pass my *Level 2 Harmony*. My mom says as long as I always remember to play my games and win them first I'll always be safe with my horse, Magic. We're best friends, and I know he'd never hurt me on purpose. I love to play with him first on the ground to know how he feels every day, and to make sure he knows we're on the same team.

I'm thankful that my family was able to find the *Parelli* system before I was born. I'm glad we can have horses that are our teachers and allow us to be confident riders and help us improve our own skills. This way, we never have to worry about whether our horse will "be there" for us that day or if we'll have to find a new one because ours is too dangerous.

I love the *Parelli* system because it's so fun! It helps me to keep getting better by

allowing me to go step-by-step through each Level. It's also really great because we can do it as a family and all improve our horsemanship by playing together. My little sister, Vanessa, cries for a long





time every day when we have to go back in the house. She never wants to leave the horses and stop playing. She's two and is already riding by herself. I love that even my little sister can play with my family in her *Level 1 Partnership*. I love that we can play with our horses while my mom plays with a horse and we don't have to stand outside the fence any more and just watch. We can watch her and learn how to do the same thing with our own horses. I love this system because both little kids and big kids can understand and do it.

There are lots of things that my brothers and sister and I are still too little to do by ourselves, but I'm happy that this is not one of them.

— Aurora



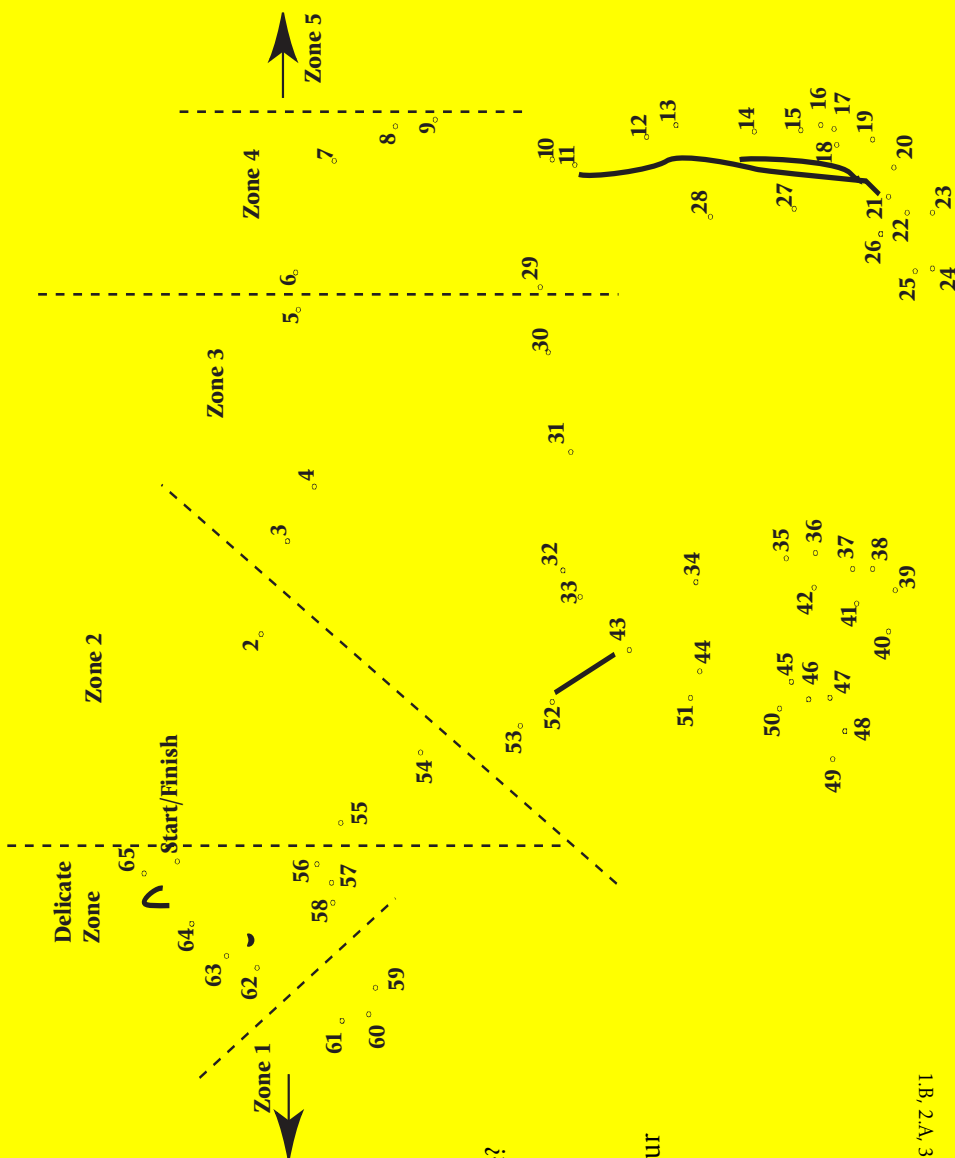
Hey, Kids! Remember to listen to your mom, dad or guardian about safety and to wear a helmet when they tell you to.

Know Your Zones?

- Connect the dots to reveal your new partner (a marker may work the best)
- Give 'em a mane and tail

See if you know your zones by answering the following questions... (It's O.K. to let your parents help. They may have fun, too! All of these answers can be found in the *Level 1 Partnership PocketGuides*.)

1. When playing the *Driving Game*, which zones do you drive?
A. Zones 1 & 3 B. Zones 1 & 4 C. Zones 2 & 4 D. Zones 2 & 5
2. Uh-oh. Your horse is resisting the *Direct Rein*. You've moved to Phase 2. You should begin to lightly tap the middle of which zone?
A. Zone 2 B. Delicate Zone C. Zone 4 D. Zone 3
3. You're playing the *Squeeze Game* and asked your horse to come through a gate and hurry when you smooch or cluck once to him. He doesn't respond. You should touch him in which zone with your Carrot Stick and Savvy String to move him forward?
A. Zone 4 B. Zone 1 C. Zone 3 D. Zone 2
4. Your horse raises his head too high and won't let you touch him. Besides Zone 2, in which zone should you concentrate on playing the *Friendly Game*?
A. Delicate Zone B. Zone 1 C. Zone 5 D. Zone 3



The Long Road to Athens

by Olympic
Pentathlete
Tracy Mattes



My long road to the 2004 Athens Olympic Games began the summer of 2002 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I was sitting at the Penrose Equestrian Center watching the U.S. National Championships for Modern Pentathlon.

The Modern Pentathlon originated in 7th Century BC, and is one of only a few Olympic events with ties to the Ancient Games in Athens, Greece. The five Pentathlon disciplines are shooting, fencing, swimming, running and equestrian. The sport originated from

a mythological tale of a soldier sent to deliver an important message to the king. The soldier's horse was brought down in enemy territory after clearing many obstacles, and he used his gun and sword to defy the opposition.

Nothing stops him from his mission. After escaping the enemy, he swims across a raging river and runs cross country to complete his mission on foot. Thus the five events of the Modern Pentathlon were born.

The equestrian portion of the Pentathlon training was about to begin in Colorado Springs. Each Pentathlete had to clear 12 show jumps that are between three- and four-feet high. I watched the first rider clear the course, no faults, no problems. The next horse refused to jump the second fence, and yet another horse cantered to the seventh fence, stopped and turned around.

"What's going on?" I finally asked the people next to me, who were the parents of the girl whose horse had refused to jump. "Aren't these the best athletes in the U.S.?"

The parents replied, "Yes, but these athletes have never ridden these horses before. In the Modern Pentathlon, the athletes are given an unfamiliar horse,

which they choose in a draw, and they have 20 minutes to familiarize themselves with the horse. Then they take the horse over 12 show jumps."

Then another couple, who had been listening to our conversation, turned around and told me the story of Olympian Chad Senior.

"He was leading the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney by a very large margin after the shooting, running and swimming events. The only two events left were equestrian and running. Since Chad was a great runner, only the horse and 12 jumps stood between him and becoming the first American athlete in Olympic history to win a Gold Medal in the Pentathlon. But his horse refused two jumps and he was eliminated, taking sixth place."

Wow, I thought, how in the world am I going to do this event? I rode when I was younger but it was just dressage and Pony Club, never four-foot fences, and certainly not with a horse I had never seen before. But I'm competitive, and I was willing to give it my best shot. I had competed in two Olympics in Track and Field, but this seemed like such a great challenge that I opted to develop my skills as a Pentathlete.

So I moved to Colorado Springs, home to the U.S. Olympic Training Center. I worked part-time for the U.S. Olympic Committee Media Relations and the World Olympian Magazine while I trained for the Modern Pentathlon. I had one goal in mind: the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

A month after I arrived at the Center, my mother called to tell me that someone she met could possibly help me conquer the most difficult event in the Pentathlon — the equestrian sport. Mom had met Letitia Glen, who worked closely with a man named Pat Parelli. Letitia, not known to be shy, bragged on and on about Parelli and his Natural Horsemanship program.

Intrigued, I called Letitia. I have to admit that at the time, what she told me about Pat Parelli and what he could do with horses sounded like an unbelievably tall tale. But something inside me thought that even if half of what she says is true, this program could

really make a difference in my Olympic riding program.

So I pitched an article idea to Wallace Sears, owner of Pachyderm Press and World Olympian Magazine. He thought it was a great story, and he loved the Parelli ties with Olympians and Three-day Eventing stars Karen and David O'Connor. So I called Letitia again and arranged to come to the *Parelli Horseman's Savvy Conference* in September 2002.

As an inquisitive journalist, I had asked about Pat Parelli everywhere — at local stables and of international riders. Everyone I talked to described him as many great things: great horseman, great teacher, greater rider, great philosopher. Some even referred to him as a "horse whisperer." The day before I left for Pagosa Springs, I even rented the movie "The Horse Whisperer" starring Robert Redford.

But not even Robert Redford could prepare me for what I was about to see at the *Savvy Conference*. I arrived at the Conference and watched as Pat was introduced to the crowd of thousands. He looked like a cowboy, of course — chaps, hat, boots, belt buckle. As I watched and listened to him talk about mutual respect between the horse and human, and the mental aspect of riding, I was amazed. No fancy words or descriptive phrases could do justice to his riding — or that of his wife Linda and their top *Parelli Instructors*. I watched them ride and jump — bare-back and bridle-less. I saw them move the horses with energy — no kicking or yanking — sideways, backward, forward — as if it was all the horse's decision.

At a break in the performance, Kate Riordan, P.R. Director for *Parelli*, scheduled my interview with Pat. At first I was a bit nervous. In my experience as a sports writer, I've found that many accomplished coaches and performers have huge egos, and I'm never sure how they'll act toward yet another journalist who undoubtedly will ask questions they've answered thousands of times. To my surprise, Pat was down-to-earth, friendly, and very personable. After the interview, I asked a few personal questions about my own Pentathlon train-



Tracy interviews Pat at the 2002 Parelli Savvy Conference

ing, which wasn't customary for journalists. To my even greater surprise, he actually seemed genuinely interested in me and my Olympic training, and explained how his philosophies and training methods could really help me.

I don't know if this was coincidence or just plain fate, but the night before I arrived at the *Parelli Savvy Conference*, I discovered that I had won a week-long training session with Pat Parelli and Gold Medal Olympian David O'Connor. Out of 2,000 names in a hat, Pat pulled mine. I was thrilled. Pat and Linda invited me to stay for the VIP week they hosted after the *Conference*, and I swear I learned more about horses and riding in those few days than in all the years I took riding lessons and competed. The only reason I left early was because I was inducted into the Track and Field Hall of Fame in Wisconsin that weekend.

After studying the *Parelli Savvy System Level 1 Partnership* information religiously for at least two hours a day for a month, I traveled again to Pagosa Springs for a *Level 1* course. I spent hours with Katy, one of Pat's *Level 3 Refinement* horses, and a *Parelli Instructor*. Because I had studied the program so diligently, I passed my *Level 1* assessment on Katy after only eight days.

What a remarkable journey — I simply couldn't get enough of *Parelli* training. But the week I passed *Level 1*, the Pagosa ranch closed for the winter and people and horses migrated to the *Parelli International Savvy Center* in Ocala, Florida. So I rode the horses in Colorado Springs with the Pentathlon coaches and continued to study *Level 2 Harmony*. All the while, I was yearning to be in Florida.

One of the biggest obstacles for American athletes is that we are not supported by our government, unlike most

countries throughout the world. In the United States, Olympic athletes support themselves and their training. I juggled two jobs just to make ends meet, and trained six to seven hours a day. How could I possibly take time off and go to Ocala? When Letitia called and said that Pat was going to be in Ocala in December, I was determined to get there.

Four days in Florida changed my life forever. After spending two days riding, Pat asked me why I had to leave so quickly. I told him how hard it was for Olympic athletes to work, train, travel and live. He asked what it would take to make it financially until the Olympic Games, and after a brief discussion, offered to sponsor me in my quest. His exact words were, "You focus on being the best athlete you can be, and let us worry about the rest." (*Parelli students everywhere are now helping to financially support this program.*)

Speechless, I thought it was like the miracle in "It's a Wonderful Life." In that very moment, Pat Parelli had knocked down the biggest obstacle in my life. The only way I could ever thank him was to dedicate the next year and a half to being the best I could be. Pat Parelli had helped me find the road to Athens.

 In the next issue of *Savvy Times* Tracy will share her trip to Italy to train with Grand Prix Jumper (and Parelli student) Luca Moneta — and more — as she travels the road to winning the Gold in Athens!



Tracy at the Parelli International Savvy Center in Ocala, Florida

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



MY HORSE SUDDENLY REARS AND BUCKS FOR NO REASON

Q: I have been following the Level 1 pack lessons and am now at Passenger Lessons. Every now and then my horse slows or stops suddenly, and does this buck-rear-buck on the spot thing. It really feels like she's trying to get me OFF her back. And a couple of times she's almost succeeded! I have played the Seven Games beforehand until she is left brain, she plays find the saddle with enthusiasm, and I have cinched politely in three stages. It happens very randomly, at walk and trot, and I don't know if there's a specific thing causing it? Looking forward to knowing how to proceed. Thank You

A: You have a sassy little horse who still knows she's in charge when you get on board, not to mention that she was not very far along in the riding department when you got her. With all these dramatic reactions she's pushing your buttons, getting you tight or making you stop asking her to do what you're asking her to do! I doubt she's afraid.

You need a couple of strategies here:

1. Don't react! Just rub her and relax every time she slows or stops and chances are she will not go as far as bucking or rearing, which can just be a reaction to your reaction! It will diminish the sassy behavior whereas getting tight or spanking makes it worse. Remember that as a passenger you have to do what the horse does, so when she slows down you need to do the same, immediately! If not, this

Q & A

with Linda Parelli

alone will annoy her because it will feel like pressure.

2. Get off right away and play some games pretty energetically: sideways, backwards, fast squeezes. This will assert your leadership a bit more. Even if it means having to get off several times in one session, do so. The idea is to interrupt her pattern more than anything else.

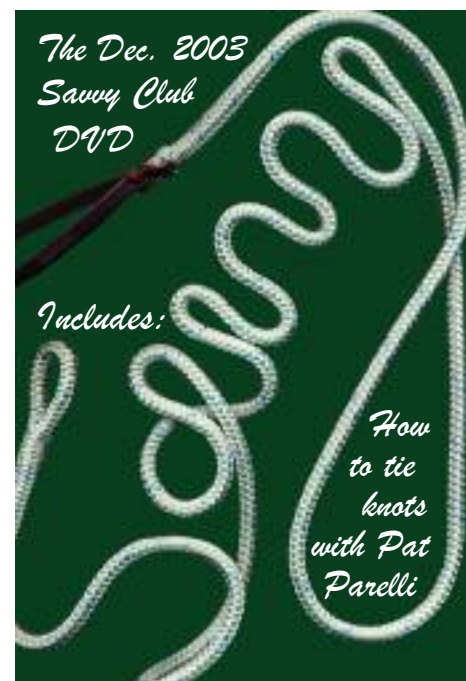
We can often be more effective on the ground than riding at this stage of our development, so don't hesitate to get off and do that.. it's not failure, it's savvy. Unless you have supreme confidence and experience, it will be hard for you to stay on board and do what's necessary so it rarely gets better!

MY HORSE IS GREAT ON THE GROUND AND A NIGHTMARE UNDER SADDLE

Q: My bossy mare threatens me (using her own 4 phases, of course!) when I ask her to move forward while being ridden. I have tried three different saddles, so I don't think she's uncomfortable/sore, nor is she lame. I play the Seven Games (usually for 1/2 hour) before riding, and although she's respectful on the ground, she's a nightmare under saddle. I must admit, it took us a while to get through the Seven Games when I started with her. She was pretty annoyed about me being in charge! The circling game was the toughest, but thanks to your advice on playing with a bossy horse over a fence, she now moves out with impulsion and respect! But riding is a different story. When I smile with all four cheeks, she pins her ears. When I squeeze with my

legs, she stomps her foot and tries to bite. When I smooch and squeeze, she cow kicks. When I slap myself with the rope, she rears. Finally, she'll move, but she tests me every 5 minutes. She's become very successful at training me not to ride her. Should I forget about riding, and move on to Level 2? Or do I need to go to PHASE 5,7,8,9 and call her bluff (or become pulverized?!!) Thanks for your time! (By the way, the trailer loading DVD is phenomenal! I had tremendous success!) Sincerely, Determined to be the alpha

A: I enjoyed your question and no, let's not get pulverized!! This horse obviously needs you to have a lot more savvy for riding and well done for getting this far with her. I would definitely go on to Level 2 and even Level 3 on the ground because you'll have more knowledge and strategies to bring her respect, trust and understanding to better levels. These challenging horses are a great test of savvy and I congratulate you for how you phrased your question with such understanding. Think about building the relationship with her and not so much of having to ride her just yet. In the end, it's all about trust, communication and understanding, on the ground and on their back.





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A BULLETIN FOR HISTORY:

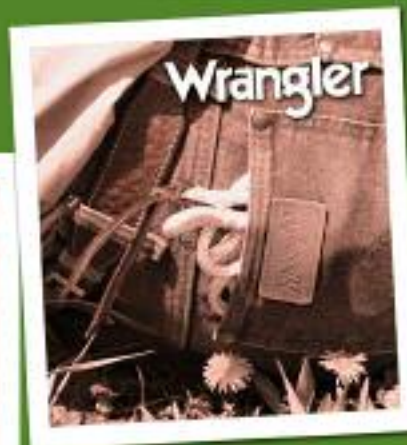
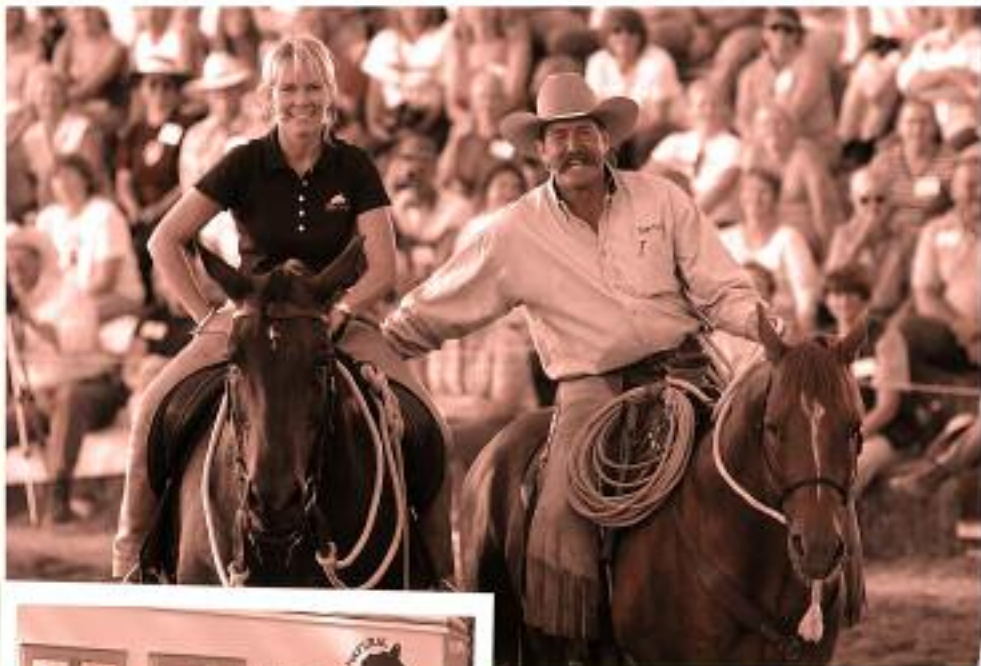
Pat and Casper will be honored in bronze by Veryl Goodnight, the preeminent equine sculptor of our time. Work on the clay sculpture is almost complete, and reservations for the limited edition of 1/5 life-size pieces are now being taken. Only 50 bronzes will be cast, and the first 11 have been reserved as of this magazine publication date. The portrait is of Pat in fluid synchronicity on his distinctive quarterhorse stallion (Pat describes Casper as the "most difficult horse" he has ever known). Their piaffe (with only a lightly-held savvy string for headgear) is an intriguingly unique subject. It will be a Parelli signature for posterity in the chronicle of man's relationship with horse. Veryl Goodnight's passion for horses and the message Pat is offering is evident in this exquisite piece. Inquiries for purchase of bronzes should be directed to 1-888-293-4287 or www.parellicollection.com.



Photo of
25" tall clay sculpture
prior to being cast
in bronze



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